ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT

(RIPARIAN AUTHORITY)

1971

SECTION I - STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. M.S. Harvey, M.B., CH.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.,
Appointed 1.11.51 - Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Inspector - F.W.I. Whitehouse, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Appointed 14.1.46.- Chief Public Health Inspector.

Address and telephone number of Medical Officer of Health:-

Office	- 15a, Dane John, Canterbury.	Canterbury 64412.
Home	- 'The Gables', Stodmarsh Road, Canterbury.	Canterbury 63391.

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING 1971

Ships from	Number	Tonnage N.R.T.	Number Inspected		No. of ships reported as having had infectious disease on board during voyage.
			By M.O.H.	By P.H.I.	
Foreign Ports	152	41,721	-	* 79	-
Coastwise	226	49,752	-	24	-
TOTAL: -	378	91,473	-	103	-

* Includes Imported Food Regulations.

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING

There was limited passenger traffic during the year, tourist to and from Esbjerg.

Cargo was concerned with:-

Imports: Cereals, Sand, Slag, Stone, Canned Milk, Dairy Products, Offal, Poultry, General Cargo.

Exports: Durite, Barley, Wheat, Tractors, various domestic commodities and general cargo.

Principal Ports from which ships arrive:-

London, Keadby, Guernsey, Dean Quarry, Maldon and Brightlingsea.

With foreign vessels from:-

Esbjerg, Antwerp, Ghent and Rotterdam.

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic.

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY

The Harbour receives the town mains supply which is a good chalk water in the ownership of the Mid Kent Water Company, which is chlorinated before distribution.

The supply to shipping is from hydrants on the quay and hosepipes which are protected and have been found on inspection to be satisfactory.

Ten samples taken for examination were of a satisfactory nature.

One sample from aboard ship was satisfactory.

SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1970

A list of infected areas is maintained by the Medical Officer of Health and is kept up to date by reference to the information supplied to him by the Department of Health. H.M. Customs are provided with information at the Harbour, Whitstable.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30274187

There is a local V.H.F. radio for sending permission to enter or for receiving advance notice from ships.

Notice of the arrival of ships from foreign ports is received from the Harbour Master and the Shipping Agent.

An arrangement is understood to be still applicable that any ship in which there is suspicion of infection or the presence of infectious disease shall anchor off Shellness, Isle of Sheppey, to allow clearance before entry. No record is available of such a direction having been issued under Regulations, but it has the standing of war-time practice for this district.

Cases of infectious disease go to Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate.

Surveillance and follow up of contacts of cases of infectious disease would be carried out through Medical Officers of Health at destinations, and local surveillance is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy.

A chemical disinfector is situated within easy access of the Harbour. Disinfection on board ship would be done by gaseous disinfection followed by cleaning down. The nearest steam disinfector is at Eastry Hospital near Sandwich.

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX

Cases go to the Rivers Hospital, Long Reach, Dartford.

Such cases would be transported by the Kent Ambulance Service for whose vaccinal state the County Medical Officer of Health is responsible. The nearest smallpox consultant is:-

Dr. E.H. Brown, Hither Green Hospital, London, S.E.13.

Telephone No: 01-698-3481.
Home No: 01-657-4849.

The facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox are centred on the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9. Telephone No: 01-205-7041. Supplies of necessary equipment for collecting specimens are held at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital Laboratory and the Canterbury Health Department.

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE

The nearest treatment centre is the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Males - Tuesday .. 3.00 pm. to 4.00 pm.
Females - Tuesday .. 2.00 pm. to 3.00 pm.

This information is available at the Council Offices and at the Harbour.

The nearest other clinics are at the Royal Seabathing Hospital, Margate on Fridays 11.00 am. - 12 noon (males) and 10.00 am. - 11.00 am. (females); and Rochester 36, New Road, Males and Females, Monday 1.30 pm. - 4.30 pm. and Thursdays 10.00 am. - 1.00 pm.

SECTION IX - NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (& SECTION X / XI)

No cases of notifiable or other infectious disease are known to have occurred in the port area during 1971. No cases of malaria were identified. No cases of plague were suspected or occurred.

SECTION XII - RODENT CONTROL.

The port is not approved for the purpose of granting deratisation or exemption certificates. Ships in the Harbour and the harbour precincts are inspected for rats and the checking of certificates.

No rats were sent for pathological examination. The appropriate laboratory is the Public Health Laboratory Service, Preston Hall, Maidstone.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

Inspections and Notices

Nature and No. of Inspections.	Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices.
	Statutory Notices.	Other Notices.	
Public Health and Rodent Control. 35.	NIL	1	Complied with.

SECTION XIV - SHELLFISH LAYINGS

The collection of molluscs takes place of the Seasalter flats and the Whitstable oyster beds are in the sea off the Harbour. These collecting areas have never been identified as sources of danger to health. Nevertheless the authority has taken informal action to encourage cleansing before marketing of all oysters landed at Whitstable.

The cleansing plant of the two companies have received Department of Health approval for the cleansing of oysters and clams. An Investigation Committee has been set up jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the oyster company now using local layings, to assess the possibility of pollution risks from a long sea outfall proposal.

SECTION XVI - BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Bodies are accommodated in the Public Mortuary at Herne Bay. Subsequent burial can be supervised by the Public Health Inspector who, as Officer for the burial of the unclaimed dead, is in touch with the undertakers of such burial.
